

**THE USE OF GCC LIGANDS****ABSTRACT**

Methods of inhibiting the proliferation of colorectal, gastric and esophageal cancer cells in an individual are disclosed. The methods comprise administering to an individual a sufficient amount of ST receptor ligand in a manner such that the proliferation of such cells is inhibited. Enhanced methods of treating an individual who has metastasized colorectal or primary or metastatic gastric or esophageal cancer are disclosed. Methods of increasing the number of ST receptor molecules on the surface of a colorectal cell in an individual are disclosed. The methods comprise administering to an individual an ST receptor ligand in a manner such that the ST receptor ligand comes into contact with an ST receptor on the surface of the colorectal cell in the individual. Methods of increasing the number of ST receptor molecules on the surface of a metastasized colorectal cancer cell in an individual who has metastasized colorectal cancer are disclosed. The methods comprise the step of administering to the individual an ST receptor ligand. Pharmaceutical compositions that comprise sterile, pyrogen free ST receptor ligand and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier or diluent are disclosed. Methods of treating an individual who has metastasized colorectal cancer are disclosed. The methods comprise the steps of increasing the number of ST receptor molecules on the surface of a metastasized colorectal cancer cell in the individual and then administering a therapeutic pharmaceutical composition that comprises components which target ST receptor for delivery of a therapeutic agent to the individual. Methods of imaging a metastasized colorectal tumor in an individual who has metastasized colorectal cancer are disclosed. The methods comprise the steps of increasing the number of ST receptor molecules on the surface of a metastasized colorectal cancer cell in the individual and then administering an pharmaceutical imaging composition that comprises components which target ST receptor for delivery of an imaging agent. Methods of determining whether an individual has metastasized colorectal cancer are disclosed. Methods of delivering an active compound to a colorectal cell in an individual are disclosed.